

BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – April 12, 2011

- This meeting was previously scheduled for April 19, 2011.
- John Carman called the BRAC Implementation Committee to order at 7:35 p.m.
- Phil Alpers, the County's BRAC Coordinator, provided the following updates:
 - **THE BRAC MOBILITY PROJECTS MATRIX IS POSTED ON THE BRAC WEB SITE.** It has been updated through January 3, 2011 and reflects the multi-modal approach the County, State and other stakeholders are taking to address the transportation impacts of BRAC in Bethesda – transit improvements, pedestrian and bicycle enhancements, intersection upgrades, transportation demand management, etc.
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/transpo_project_matrix-010311.pdf
 - **THE “TIERS AND PHASES” OF BRAC PROJECTS** based on available funding streams is also posted on the web site. The Tiers and Phases were developed by MDOT and MCDOT in November 2009 with input from the BIC.
 - **Matrix developed by MDOT-MCDOT, October 2009:**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/brac_projects-tiers-100609.pdf
 - **Summary of Tiers & Phases, updated February 4, 2011:**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/tiers_phases-summary-revised-020411.pdf
 - **PROJECT, CONSTRUCTION, & TRAFFIC DISRUPTION SCHEDULES.** Phil said that the BRAC web site is being redesigned to give added emphasis to construction schedules, traffic updates, and commuting alternatives. The web site now features:
 - **A Consolidated Timeline for BRAC-related construction delays:**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/disruptions_timeline-041111.pdf
 - **The “Projects At a Glance Page”** that provides a concise and frequently updated summary of the main projects to mitigate BRAC-related traffic:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brcimpl.asp?url=/content/exec/brac/projects_glance.asp

- **Montgomery County DOT Projects Update:**
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/mcdot-projectsupdate-040511.pdf>
- **MDOT Projects Update:**
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/mdot-projectsupdate-041211.pdf>
- **Bethesda Transportation Solutions BRAC web site: We Want You to be Ready!**
<http://www.bethesdatransit.org/BRAC.shtml>
- **SHA Construction Schedule for “Phase One” Intersections Improvements:**
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/intersection-s-sha-tieroneschedule-122110.pdf>

○ **Update on Federal funding for BRAC-Related Transportation Projects:**

- Last Friday, April 8th, Congressional and White House negotiators agreed on a bill to fully fund all agencies of the federal government through the end of Fiscal Year 2011 (September 30, 2011). The bill includes the “Van Hollen language” to provide \$300 million for transportation infrastructure projects in communities with BRAC-impacted military medical facilities. Phil noted that there are three communities that probably would qualify for such funding: Bethesda, Fort Belvoir, and San Antonio. This bill is expected to come to a vote in the House this coming Thursday, April 14th, and in the Senate on the 14th or 15th. The bill would provide \$300 million to DOD’s Office of Economic Adjustment which would establish its own processes to disburse the funds. The BIC wondered how OEA would administer the funds, assuming the funding bill passes. Jeanette Musil of OEA responded that OEA has processes in place for other programs, but until this bill passes OEA lacks any direction to move forward. She said that once a process is in place, the application process could move fairly quickly depending on how far along communities are with their projects.

○ **Web Site Enhancements:**

- Phil said the web site enhancements are moving forward. The Home Page will have a string focus on traffic updates and commuting alternatives. There will be living project and construction timelines, access to real-time maps and traffic cameras.

- **Community Updates:**

- George Milne announced that his term on the Stone Ridge School Board of Trustees is ending. He introduced Rich Vogel who will take his seat on the BRAC Implementation Committee.
- Bill McGowan of Locust Hill introduced himself as a temporary fill-in for Dawn Chaikin, who is taking Paul Thaler's BIC seat on behalf of Locust Hill.
- Ilaya Hopkins reported that Captain Malanoski of NSA-Bethesda visited the East Bethesda Citizens Association, and that NSAB hosted an open house for local residents. A recent WMCAB meeting discussed the sale of the Trillium project on Wisconsin @ Woodmont to a new developer that plans to build a mixed-use project including apartments rather than luxury condos, and that this new project might provide housing for NNMC patient families.
- John Carman asked Edgar Gonzales if MCDOT could brief the BIC on the recent study of county-wide Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Edgar said MCDOT could give such a presentation at the May BIC meeting.
- Jeff Miller of NSA Bethesda said that discussions with NIH are continuing about possible shared express bus service from outlying park-and-ride lots.

- **Navy Updates:**

- Captain Malanoski said that NSA Bethesda is "aggressively" working with neighbors as the BRAC transition comes closer to reality. NSAB open houses are not substitutes for the BIC meetings but do provide opportunity for personal back-and-forth. He noted that some trees have been taken down for construction, but where possible they will be replaced.
- Jeff Miller said that construction on the North and South Wood Gates is proceeding. There may be some impacts on sidewalks but not on Wisconsin Avenue. South Gate work may cause temporary single lane operation.

- **MCDOT:**

- Edgar Gonzalez provided the first of regular weekly updates on MCDOT BRAC-related projects, showing what happened last week, what will happen next week, and what is forecast for the upcoming three weeks:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/mcdot-projectsupdate-040511.pdf>

- Concerns were expressed about speeding cut-through traffic in Locust Hill, and that police presence might be necessary.
- The need for a Kiss-and-Ride drop-off on east side Rockville Pike was discussed, near South Wood, where the high speed elevators would be located. Edgar noted that this is still under consideration and would be raised with the Navy separate from the Metro access project so it would not interfere with the federal NEPA process that mandates the use of federal funds.
- Edgar reported that the Chevy Chase Valley Traffic Access project is moving forward. The design for a temporary traffic signal at Jones Bridge Road/Spring Valley Road will be done soon. It will take about 18-24 months for the Platt Ridge/Montrose Drive extension project to be prepared – for permitting, mandatory referral, etc. -- and by then the impacts of the temporary signal will be known and whether the extension should move forward.
- Metro Crossing Study: Edgar said the Federal Highway Administration has commented on MCDOT's environmental study and approval for categorical exclusion is expected in the near future. This means a major hurdle will have been cleared, and that the Study will become an actual Project.

- **MDOT**

- Andy Scott reported that MDOT is preparing weekly project updates similar to that provided by MCDOT, that will provide useful information to local commuters:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/mdot-projectsupdate-041211.pdf>
- SHA plans a resurfacing project on Wisconsin Avenue in downtown Bethesda. Between Jones Bridge Road and Montgomery Ave. This will begin in August, coinciding with the BRAC transition and intersection work at JBR/Rockville Pike.
- Regarding the potential large federal appropriations, SHA has not decided whether it will build all phases of the intersections project simultaneously or if they will be spread out.

- **John Carman solicited Public Comments:**

- Karen Kuker-Kihl was concerned about the impacts on traffic in the area by having two resurfacing projects, that will overlap for two months, on Old Georgetown Road and Wisconsin Avenue

- Paul Seder noted that NIH could do more to encourage its employees to use Old Georgetown Road as a major conduit rather than Rockville Pike. He also thought the traffic signal on Rockville Pike at Alta Vista was causing needless delays. Bill McGowan said that signal was installed after a fatal collision occurred at that intersection.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2011, 7:30 p.m., at the BCC Regional Services Center.

Committee members in attendance, April 12, 2011:

Phil Alperson, County BRAC Coordinator
 John Carman, Chairman, BRAC Implementation Committee
 Bill McGowan for Dawn Chaikin, Locust Hill Citizens Association
 Larry Cole, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission
 Edgar Gonzalez, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
 Leslie Weber for Brian Gragnolati, Suburban Hospital
 Ginanne Italiano, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce
 Janet Maalouf, Maplewood Citizens Association
 Seth Maiman, Western Montgomery Citizens Advisory Board
 George Milne & Richard Vogel, Stone Ridge School
 Sara Morningstar, Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
 Patrick O'Neill, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce
 Phil Neuberg for Dan Wheeland, National Institutes of Health

Ex-officio:

Joan Kleinman (Rep. Chris Van Hollen)
 Susan Buffone (Council Member Roger Berliner)
 Debbie Spielberg (Council Member Marc Elrich)
 Jeff Miller, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda
 Captain Mike Malanoski, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda

Other Attendees

Brigitte Akalovsky Village of North Chevy Chase
 Erin Donaghue, Bethesda Patch
 Sarah Gantz, Gazette Newspapers
 Greg Humes, Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Association
 Earlene Jordan, Locust Hill Estates
 Karen Kuker-Kihl, The Promenade
 Marilyn Mazuzan, Town of Oakmont
 Jeanette Musil, DOD Office of Economic Adjustment
 Tom Pogue, Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation
 Tom Robertson, Bethesda Urban Partnership
 Paul Seder
 Bob Thompson ("Dr. Gridlock"), Washington Post